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The Indonesia Human Rights Campaign

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SEAD for [illegible] EC

Rt Hon Douglas Hurd
Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs

30 September 1992

Dear Mr Hurd

ARRESTS AND HOUNDING OF EAST TIMORESE CITIZENS

We are writing to you in your position as Secretary of State and in view of Britain's presidency of the European Commission. We welcomed the comments that you made as representative for the EC to the United Nations General Assembly on 22 September, particularly those condemning the actions of Indonesia in East Timor.

We have been informed today that eight East Timorese eye-witnesses to the Santa Cruz massacre in November last year, who have been in hiding in Jakarta since late August, are being hunted down by Indonesian security forces. The names we know are Filipe R Pereira, Jose Manuel de Sousa, Clementino F Oliveira/Nelson A Baptista, Ventura V Conceicao, Mateus Brito Ximenez, Profirio da C Oliveira. The eighth may be Laurindo Albino Lourdes.

These eight are in extreme danger, confirmed by the fact that members of their families, living and working in East Timor, have been arrested. It is thought that they are being interrogated as to the whereabouts of their relatives. One of the parents is: Ms Maria Branca (mother of Laurindo Albino Lourdes above and wife of Albino Lourdes a political prisoner in Cipinang prison since 1984). Others who have been arrested in this connection are Mr Gaspar and Agostinho Pereira. Agostinho Pereira, brother of Felipe, was arrested at Dili airport in early September and beaten by Indonesian security forces so badly that blood was pouring from his ears. The arrest and beating was in order to discover the whereabouts of Filipe and the other friends.

These eight people in Jakarta and their families in East Timor people are in extreme danger. From the past behaviour of Indonesian troops and the beatings and arrests suffered by members of the eight's families, if the eight are detained by the Indonesian troops, they are at risk of ill-treatment and even torture.

We urge your Government to take action to end the continuous hounding and intimidation of the East Timorese people by Indonesian army and security forces. In particular, we urge you ask the British Embassy in Jakarta to take urgent steps to ensure the safety of the eight who are being hunted down as witnesses of the Santa Cruz Massacre. The eight must be given sanctuary against the threats of ill-treatment and wrongful imprisonment by the Indonesian security forces.

We also urge your Government to intervene on behalf of the mother and relatives of the eight who are being interrogated as hostages. The detention of members of the families of the eight is wholly unjustified and contrary to recognised universal human rights. Actions of this sort are intended to intimidate and frighten the eight as well as people in East Timor. The holding of innocent people as "hostage" must be condemned and the release of these three demanded immediately, with a guarantee that they will not be intimidated in the future.

We look forward to your speedy action.
Yours sincerely,

Carmel Budiardjo